

Attorney Docket: 030114
U.S. Application No. 10/643,177 Examiner Sterling Art Unit 3632
Response to September 25, 2007 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

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[c01] (Withdrawn) A support device for supporting an article, the device comprising:

a shank having a first end and a second end, the first end adaptable to be driven into a member for securing the shank therein; and

a first support member and a second support member outwardly extending from the shank, the first support member and the second support member for supporting the article when attached to or suspended from at least one of the first support member and the second support member.

[c02] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 1, wherein the shank, the first support member, and the second support member have a coplanar relationship.

[c03] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 1, wherein the first end of the shank comprises a threaded portion for threadably securing the shank into the member.

[c04] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 1, wherein the shank comprises a head at an extremity of the second end, the head having a polygonally-shaped surface for threadably driving the shank into the member.

[c05] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 1, wherein the first end of the shank comprises at least one barb protruding from an outer surface, the at least one barb for securing the shank into the member.

[c06] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 1, wherein the shank comprises a head at an extremity of the second end, the head for striking the shank while driving the shank into the member.

[c07] (Currently Amended) A support device for supporting an article, the device comprising:

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a virgate shank having a first end and a second end, the first end adaptable to be driven into a member for securing the shank therein, the virgate shank having a threaded interior passage extending from the first end to the second end, the interior passage having a threaded inner wall defining a longitudinal axis extending from the first end to the second end, the interior passage open at the first end and open at the second end such that a threaded fastener may be threaded into, through, and along the interior passage, the virgate shank also including a pair of fingers extending from the first end of the shank, such that as the threaded fastener emerges from an open end in the interior passage, a distal end of the threaded fastener contacts the fingers and deflects the fingers into contact with the member, thus frictionally engaging the fingers to the member to help retain the support device, with each finger including at least one barb protruding from an outer surface of each finger, such that each barb embeds into the member to further retain the support device;

a generally hooked-shaped support member outwardly extending from an outer wall of the second end of the shank, the hook-shaped support member for supporting the article when attached to the hook-shaped support member; and

a second support member outwardly extending from the outer wall of the second end of the shank, the second support member having an inner surface forming an enclosure about a hollow inner area, the second support member further supporting the article when attached to the second support member, with the shank, the hooked-shaped support member, and the second support member having a coplanar relationship.

[c08] (Cancel)

[c09] (Original) A support device according to claim 7, wherein the second support member has a generally ring shape, and the inner surface has a generally circular shape enclosing the hollow inner area.

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- [c10] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 7, wherein the second support member has a generally square shape, and the inner surface has a generally square shape enclosing the hollow inner area.
- [c11] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 7, wherein the second support member has a generally triangular shape, and the inner surface has a generally triangular shape enclosing the hollow inner area.
- [c12] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 7, wherein the first end of the shank comprises a threaded portion for threadably driving the shank into the member.
- [c13] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 12, wherein the shank comprises a head at an extremity of the second end, the head having a polygonally-shaped surface for threadably driving the shank into the member.
- [c14] (Currently Amended) A support device according to claim 7, wherein each finger outwardly extends along the longitudinal axis of the virgate shank, each finger having a threaded inner surface for engaging the threaded fastener as the threaded fastener emerges from the open end the first end of the shank comprises at least one barb protruding from an outer surface, the at least one barb for securing the shank into the member.
- [c15] (Withdrawn) A support device according to claim 7, wherein the shank comprises a head at an extremity of the second end, the head having a generally flat surface for striking the shank while driving the shank into the member.
- [c16] (Cancel)
- [c17] (Cancel)
- [c18] (Cancel)